

## Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 078207

73

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TO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY

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TAGS: US, PINT, PARM, XG

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE

1. HIGHLIGHTS. INDOCHINA HAS CONTINUED CHIEF FOCUS; MONDAY  
BALTSUN FRONTPAGES SOYUZ OFF COURSE, MISSION ABORTED; ALSO  
ROMANIA DRIFTS FROM SOVIET BLOC. SOME NATO COMMENT.  
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PAGE 02 STATE 078207

1A. FRIDAY WASHSTAR INSIDE HAD BRADSHER, NEW MOVE NEEDED  
TO BRIDGE ARMS GULF; ALSO POPULATION GROWTH RAISES NUCLEAR  
ODDS; FRIDAY WASHPOST HAD ITEM FROM SUVA ON FALL-OUT  
VICTIMS. SATURDAY NYTIMES INSIDE HAD PAPER IN SOVIET

CHARGES US STEPS UP VIETNAM INTERFERENCE; SATURDAY BALTSUN  
HAD KGB SAID TO THINK CIA HAS SUB AND CODES; SATURDAY  
WASHPOST HAD NATO NOT WORRIED BY US VIETNAM FAILURE.

1B. SUNDAY NYTIMES INSIDE HAD NATO CONSIDERING A SUMMIT  
MEETING; ALSO MOREON NUCLEAR TESTS; SUNDAY WASHPOST HAD  
MOSCOW,NO PUBLIC GLOATING OVER US REVERSES. MONDAY  
NYTIMES INSIDE HAS SOVIET ADHERES TO DETENTE. MONDAY PAPERS  
REPORT SCHLESINGER MUTES CRITICISM OF CONGRESS OVER  
INDOCHINA.

2. NUCLEAR ITEMS. FRIDAY WASHSTAR BRADSHER LOCAL SAID  
MIRED EFFORTS TO TURN VLADIVOSTOK INTO TREATY ARE NEARING

POINT WHICH WILL REQUIRE NEW DISARMAMENT DECISIONS AT  
HIGHEST AMERICAN AND SOVIET LEVELS, ACCORDING HIGH  
ADMINISTRATION SOURCES, WHICH SAY THE IMPASSE RESULTS  
FROM FAILURE ADEQUATELY TO DISCUSS DETAILS IN VLADIVOSTOK.  
BRADSHER SAYS HASTILY-ARRANGED AGREEMENT IS SO VAGUE  
GENEVA NEGOTIATORS HAVE BEEN UNABLE FOR TWO MONTHS TO PIN  
DOWN BASIC ASPECTS OF NEW PROPOSAL AND THREE MAJOR PROBLEMS

HAVE DEVELOPED: 1, WHETHER WHOLE CLASSES OF MISSILES BE  
CONSIDERED AS MIRVED WHEN ONE HAS BEEN TESTED; 2, WHETHER  
BACKFIRE BOMBER COUNTS AS STRATEGIC WEAPON WITHIN 2400  
LIMIT; 3, WHETHER NEW CRUISE MISSILES COME WITHIN AGREE-  
MENT'S LIMITATIONS. DISAGREEMENT IS COMPLETE ON ALL  
THREE, AND GENEVA DISCUSSIONS OF US AND SOVIET DRAFT  
TREATIES MAKE CLEAR THAT THE DIFFERENCES ARE TOO SHARP AND  
CRITICAL TO BE RESOLVED THERE AND MAY BE TAKEN UP IN  
KISSINGER-DOBRYNIN BACK CHANNEL.

2A. FRIDAY WASHSTAR ALSO HAD LOCAL REPORT BY JUDITH  
RANDAL ON LUNCHEON SPONSORED BY NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR  
OBSERVATION OF WORLD POPULATION GROWTH WHICH HEARD MAXWELL  
TAYLOR SAY WE MAY BE APPROACHING A STAGE OF COMPETITIVE  
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 078207

WARFARE AS COUNTRIES WITH FASTEST RISING POPULATIONS  
FACE SHORTAGES AND MAY PRESS THEIR SMALLER NEIGHBORS IN  
NUCLEAR WAR IN WHICH US COULD BECOME EMBROILED, TAYLOR  
MENTIONING ISRAEL ARGENTINA AMONG SEVERAL COUNTRIES  
WHICH MAY FIND THEMSELVES SO SITUATED.

2B. FRIDAY WASHPOST ROUND-UP ITEM FROM SUVA REPORTED  
MICRONESIAN DELEGATES TOLD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR A  
NUCLEAR-FREE PACIFIC THAT ALL BUT ONE OF THE CHILDREN ON

RONGELA DURING AMERICAN NUCLEAR TESTS ENDING IN 1958  
HAVE UNDERGONE SURGERY FOR REMOVAL OF THYROID TUMORS  
RESULTING FROM THE TESTING.

2C. SUNDAY NYTIMES HAD SUVA UPI REPORTING 16 OUT OF 17 CHILDREN BORN ON RONGELAP SINCE AMERICAN HYDROGEN BOMB TEST OF 1954 HAVE HAD SURGERY FOR THYROID TUMORS, ONE DYING AT AGE 19 AFTER SURGERY, ALSO RATE OF STILLBIRTHS ON RONGELAP WAS MORE THAN DOUBLE THE RATE FOR THE REST OF THE ISLANDS, ACCORDING MICRONESIAN DELEGATES. UPI ADDED DELEGATES FROM 22 COUNTRIES ARE IN ATTENDANCE. SUNDAY NYTIMES ALSO REPORTED ABOUT 100 BIKINIANS HAVE RETURNED TO BIKINI, OTHERS AWAIT A 3-MILLION-DOLLAR EX GRATIAPAYMENT FROM US.

2D. YESTERDAY'S PARADE MAGAZINE, WITH US-SOVIET CREWS

ON COVER EAGERLY AWAITING JOINT SPACE FLIGHT, HAS ITEM HEADED PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS REPORTING SINCE 1967 SOVIET UNION HAS EXPLODED OVER 30 NUCLEAR DEVICES-- MOSTLY TO INCREASE FLOW OF OIL, BUILD CANALS, STORE WATER. ARTICLE QUOTES DAVID DAVIES, EDITOR OF NATURE, SAYING THERE IS NO DOUBT THEY ARE NUCLEAR UNDERGROUND EXPLOSIONS. STORY ENDS SAYING IN US UNDERGROUND EXPLOSIONS HAVE PRETTY MUCH COME TO A HALT, THE RESULT OF PRESSURE BY ENVIRONMENTALISTS FEARFUL OF RADIO-ACTIVITY SEEPING INTO GROUND WATER.

3. NATO. SAT WASHPOST FOQUET BRUSSELS REPORTED LUNS AND OTHER NATO OFFICIALS NOTE SPORADIC CONCERN ABOUT DURABILITY OF US PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 078207

PROCESS OF EAST-WEST DETENTE IN FACE OF COMMUNIST INROADS IN INDOCHINA AND PORTUGAL BUT FEEL THAT US WITHDRAWAL IN SOUTHEAST ASIA SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS WARNING OF SIMILAR FATE FOR NATO, THAT EUROPE RANKS HIGHER ON US PRIORITY LIST AND THAT ATLANTIC ALLIANCE REMAINS CORNERSTONE OF US FOREIGN POLICY.

3A. SUNDAY NYTIMES BINDER WASHINGTON REPORTED NATO CONSIDERING MEETING OF HEADS OF STATE IN BRUSSELS AT END OF MAY TO REASSERT PRINCIPLES OF WESTERN UNITY AND PRESENT COMMON FRONT BEFORE FINAL SESSION OF CSCE IN HELSINKI, MOST WESTERN GOVERNMENTS NOW CONCLUDING HELSINKI SUMMIT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE.

3B. FRIDAY BALSUN EDITORIAL ON NATO APPROVED SUSPENSION OF US-PORTUGUESE TALKS ON US BASES IN AZORES AND EXPLORA-

TION OF POSSIBILITIES FOR DISINVITING PORTUGAL FROM NATO MEETINGS AND OMITTING LISBON FROM SECRET DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTION LIST POINTING OUT THAT WHILE A PART-COMMUNIST PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE A PRECEDENT IN NATO, IN ITS PRESENT STATE PORTUGAL CANNOT BE TRUSTED OR PROVOKED BUT MUST DECIDE WHAT KIND OF A COUNTRY

IT IS GOING TO BE BEFORE CLARIFYING ITS RELATIONS WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD.

3C. MARCH 31 CHICAGO SUN-TIMES HAD EDITORIAL SAYING NATO IS THREATENED FROM WITHIN BY DANGER OF COMMUNIST TAKE-OVER IN PORTUGAL AND CONTINUING PROBLEMS IN GREECE AND TURKEY, AND FROM WITHOUT BY UNMATCHED SOVIET GAINS AT CSCE, AND WARNING THAT NATO MUST MEET ITS CHALLENGES AS A STRONGER, MORE UNITED ALLIANCE.

4. SOVIET RELATIONS. MONDAY NYTIMES HEADS CLARITY MOSCOW, SOVIET SPACESHOT WITH 2 MEN FAILS; MISSION

ABORTED WITHIN DAY WHEN ROCKET MALFUNCTIONS; BOTH ASTRO-NAUTS WELL. CLARITY IN LONG STORY SAYS TASS LANGUAGE STRONGLY IMPLIES NEITHER ASTRONAUT HAD BEEN INJURED IN THE EMERGENCY, THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF MISHAPS THAT HAS PLAGUED SOVIET SPACE PROGRAM IN RECENT YEARS. TIMES UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 078207

TRAILER RECALLS TWO AMERICAN MISHAPS IN 1966 AND 1970.

4A. MONDAY BALTSUN REUTERS MOSCOW STRESSES A MANNED SOYUZ SPACECRAFT WAS BROUGHT SAFELY BACK TO EARTH AFTER FLIGHT WAS DISCONTINUED, TASS SAYING CRAFT MADE A SOFT LANDING IN WESTERN SIBERIA. REUTERS RECALLS SEVERAL SOVIET SPACE MISHAPS AND CONCLUDES: DESPITE THE PREMATURE END TO THE SOYUZ 15 FLIGHT AMERICAN SPACE OFFICIALS SAID THEY DID NOT EXPECT THIS TO AFFECT A PLANNED US-SOVIET SPACE LINKUP SCHEDULED FOR JULY. WASHPOST STORY IS BRIEF, ENDING WITH REFERENCE TO SOVIET SPACE PROGRAM WORKING TOWARD JOINT MISSION SCHEDULED FOR JULY.

4B. SATURDAY BALTSUN HAD WASHINGTON STORY BY KNIGHT NEWSPAPERS REPORTING THAT SOVIET INTELLIGENCE AGENTS ARE SAYING PRIVATELY THAT CIA'S EFFORT TO RECOVER ASUNKEN SUB WAS A COMPLETE SUCCESS, INCLUDING THE WHOLE SUB, CODE BOOKS, AND MISSILES, AND THEY ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE NEW DEEP-SEA CAPACITY THE U.S. HAS DEVELOPED. THE RUSSIANS WERE SAID TO BELIEVE THE CIA DELIBERATELY LEAKED NEWS OF THE SALVAGE MISSION TO TAKE THE MINDS OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC OFF THE AGENCY'S FALTERING IMAGE AT HOME.

4C. SUNDAY WASHPOST OSNOS MOSCOW REPORTED THAT THE SHARP REVERSALS TO U.S. POLICIES IN INDOCHINA AND MIDEAST UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE BEEN RECEIVED WITH SOME SATISFACTION BUT PUBLIC GLOATING HAS BEEN KEPT TO A MINIMUM, AS WESTERN DIPLOMATS BELIEVE SOVIET RESPONSE HAS BEEN CAUTIOUS OUT OF AN UNDERLYING CONCERN FOR MAINTAINING THE BASIC PATTERN OF DETENTE WITH U.S. AND BREZHNEV'S INTEREST IN A HELSINKI SUMMIT.

4D. MONDAY NYTIMES WREN MOSCOW REPORTS THAT, DESPITE A TIDE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS APPARENTLY RUNNING IN MOSCOW'S FAVOR, THE OVERRIDING THEME IN SOVIET FOREIGNPOLICY REMAINS THAT OF DETENTE, AND KREMLINHAS REACTED TO AMERICAN SETBACKS IN MUTED FASHION AND SOMEFOREIGN DIPLOMATS HAVE CONCLUDED THE RUSSIANS WERE NOT ENTIRELY PREPARED FOR THE WINDFALLS. WREN ADDS SOVIETLEADERS SEEM TO HOPE THAT THE GLOWOF A HELSINKI SUMMIT THIS UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 078207

SUMMERWOULD GIVE THEM GREATER CREDIBILITY AT THE VIRTUALLY DEADLOCKED NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA; AND IT IS REPORTED MOSCOW IS TRYING TO POSTPONE MEETING OF

EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES UNTIL AFTER HELSINKI SO WESTERN EUROPEANS WOULDN'T BE PREMATURELY UNNERVED BY RHETORIC FROM THE COMMUNIST MEETING; AND KREMLIN ALSO SEEMS CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT A PREMATURE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST BID COULD DO TO DETENTE.

4E. MONDAY BALTSUN PARKS MOSCOW REPORTS ROMANIA APPEARS TO BE QUARRELING WITH ITS SOVIET ALLIES AGAIN IN FIGHTING MOSCOW ATTEMPTS TO LAY DOWN NEW RULES FOR THE IDEOLOGICAL CONDUCT OF SOVIET BLOC, ACCORDINT TO EAST EUROPEAN SOURCES IN MOSCOW, AND ROMANIA IS ALSO ANGERED BY SOVIET UNION DOUBLING ITS PRICES FOR RAW MATERIALS. PARK NOTES GEN. COMAN RECENTLY VISITED PENTAGON, THE FIRST U.S. VISIT BY A WARSAW PACT NATION CHIEF OF STAFF.

5. DEFENSE ITEMS. MONDAY WASHPOST LYONS LOCAL PIECE REPORTED SCHLESINGER, ON FACE THE NATION, WASNOTCONVINCED THAT RESPECT FOR U.S. COMMITMENTS WILL BE REDUCED BY VIETNAM, BUT SAID U.S. MUST TAKEOTHER AREAS INCREASINGLY SERIOUSLY ANDNOT DO SUCH THINGS AS REDUCING FORCES IN EUROPE. MONDAY NYTIMES STORY IS RESTRICTED TO SCHLESINGER'S VIEWS ON VIETNAM.

5A. THURSDAY WASHSTAR REPORTED EUGENE ROSTOW TOLD THE COALITION FOR A DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY THAT CURRENT DEFENSE BUDGET IS AN INVITATION TO DISASTER AND SHOULD BE INCREASED BY TEN BILLION TO KEEP UP WITH RUSSIAN MILITARY SPENDING.

5B. BALTSUN EDITORIAL TODAY ON BIGGEST SIEVE IN WASHINGTON REFERS TO RICKOVER CRITICISM OF RENEGOTIATION BOARD WHICH PERMITS MILLIONS AND MILLIONS IN EXCESS PROFITS. SUN FAVORS MAKING BOARD MORE PROFESSIONAL AND ENLARGING ITS STAFF. INGERSOLL

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